



East TN Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Conference Center, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Meeting Minutes:

Attendees:

Dan Pallme, TDOT
Melissa Taylor, Chattanooga TPO
Xiaoling Li, UTK
Trey Joiner, TDOT
Michelle Christian, TDOT
James Calcagno, UTK
Larry McGoogin, TDOT
Mike Russell, TDOT
Glenn Berry, JC MTPO
Mike McConkey, TLD Logistics
Bill Albright, Kingsport MPO
Troy Ebbert, Kingsport MPO
Sara Elmore, TDOT
Chad Reese, SE TN RPO
John C. Farmer, Towboat Tour
Mike Conger, Knoxville TPO
John Naylor, CMAA

Stephanie Hargrove, UTK
Cory Osborne, FTDD
Don Brown, FTDD
Mark Burton, UTK
Andy Alden, VA-Tech I-81 CC
Max Baker, AECOM
Tim Andrews, Ham. Co. RR Auth.
Jeff Welch, Knoxville TPO
Ed Shouse, Knoxville TPO
Don Loftis, Olin Corp.
Asad Khattak, UTK
Aayush Thakur, TDOT
Rich DesGroseilliers, LAM TPO
David Freeman, Capital Resource
Andy Padgett, TDOT
Shelby Perry, TDOT

9:30 a.m. – Meeting opened with words of welcome from Dr. Mark Burton, Research Associate Professor, Department of Economics at University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

9:35 a.m. – Larry McGoogin, Assistant Director of TDOT Long Range Planning Division, welcomed everyone to the FAC meeting and extended TDOT's gratitude to UTK for hosting the FAC meeting.

9:45 a.m. Dan Pallme, Assistant Chief of Environment and Planning / Freight and Logistics Director at TDOT spoke on Governor Haslam's proposed budget, the IMPROVE Act. He

showed a video that described the details of the IMPROVE Act and then fielded questions from the audience. He also shared the latest updates on the bill as it passed through state senate and house. He further added that the Governor's office has said that all changes to the bill should be completed by April 7, 2017 and the law will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

- Question on why indexing was eliminated
 - o Dan said that he believes that the fear of uncertainty caused by indexing may be the rationale behind elimination.
- Question about the open container law
 - o Dan said that open container law may pass in this session and will allow state to use over \$18 million in federal funding towards transportation improvements
- Question about autonomous vehicles in Tennessee
 - o Dan said that TDOT is working on updating the regulations to keep up with the changing technologies. A bill has been introduced to allow Truck Platooning by removing the 300 feet minimum vehicle following distance in Tennessee.
- Question about a prioritized list of freight projects
 - o Dan said that TDOT is currently developing methodologies for prioritizing projects using congestion, safety and traffic flow data.
- Question about the anticipated start date of the projects
 - o Dan said that the law will go in effect starting July 1. All 962 will be part of the law. It is anticipated that these projects will be completed or under construction within 15 years with the current form of the bill.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – The meeting paused for a time of refreshments and networking.

11:00 a.m. – Aayush Thakur, Senior Freight Planner at TDOT Long Range Planning Division gave an update on university research activities. These research activities are related to freight-specific projects. Aayush also encouraged all FAC members to provide feedback on the other freight research projects.

Aayush next touched on making the statewide freight plan FAST Act compliant. This process must be completed by September 30, 2017.

Aayush also spoke on the Invest Round 3 implementation grant. They will need input of the 17 metrics of the grant. The deadline is September, 30, 2017.

11:30 a.m. – Mike Russell, Project Manager, TDOT Region 1, gave an update on the latest roadway projects in Region 1.

11:40 a.m. – Melissa Taylor, Director – Strategic Long Range Planning, Chattanooga TPO gave an update on their latest activities:

- **Updating the datasets for their MPO model**
- **Updating their Congestion Management Plan**

11:45 a.m. – Mike Conger, Senior Transportation Engineer, Knoxville MPO gave an update on their latest activities:

- **Updating their Long Range Plan**
- **Working with TDOT to identify Critical Urban Freight Corridors in their region**

11:50 a.m. – Lakeway MTPO said that they are currently working on updating their Long Range Plan

11:55 a.m. – John Naylor, Chattanooga Airport said that they are currently working on updating their masterplan. He also expressed concerns regarding the conditions of airport roads.

12:00 noon – Dan thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned.